

may consume to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), who has been a strong supporter of VA issues his entire time here in the House of Representatives.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Thank you, Congressman MILLER. Thank you, Congressman WALZ. I always feel like he speaks with such authority when I am around him; I am always concerned he is going to ask me to do 10 pushups or something.

I rise in support of H.R. 3681, the Veterans Benefits Awareness Act. This simple, straightforward legislation authorizes VA to purchase advertising in national media outlets for the purpose of promoting awareness of veterans benefits.

When was the last time you saw the Super Bowl or other prime time recruiting advertisement for one of the military services? Now, when was the last time that you saw the Super Bowl or other prime time ad for veterans health care and benefits sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Probably never. It's one reason that many veterans and their dependents are not aware of the benefits due to them.

Over the years, Congress has authorized millions to improve outreach, and the results are disappointing. In spite of the additional funding, VA still relies on the public service announcements, pamphlets, meetings with small groups of veterans, and the one-on-one outreach to deliver its message to veterans. Unfortunately, PSAs are often most broadcast at times when few people are watching, and small groups and individual meetings are often difficult to arrange and are not very efficient.

Our veterans continue to tell us that they were not aware of the VA programs that would improve their lives. That is why I introduced H.R. 3681, the Veterans Benefits Awareness Act of 2008, which authorizes VA to purchase advertising in national media outlets for the purpose of promoting awareness of veterans benefits.

H.R. 3681 will provide VA with the authority to buy radio and TV time to ensure that veterans and their dependents are aware of health care options and benefits for education, disability compensation, nondisability pensions, training, loan guarantees, and survivors' programs.

I want to thank Chairwoman HERSETH SANDLIN for moving this bill, for her cooperation in working with the subcommittee; Chairman FILNER, and Ranking Member BUYER for their support; and also to our staffs that worked so hard in preparing these bills. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3681.

Mr. FILNER. I have no further speakers.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. We have no further speakers. We urge adoption and yield back the balance of our time.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3681, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3681, the "Veterans Benefits Awareness Act" which authorizes the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to advertise in the national media to promote awareness of benefits under laws administered by the Secretary.

As an original cosponsor of H.R. 3681, and the Chairwoman of the Veterans' Affairs Economic Opportunity Subcommittee, I would like to thank Representative BOOZMAN, who serves as the Subcommittee Ranking Member, for introducing this important bill. I also would like to recognize Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman FILNER and Ranking Member BUYER for their strong leadership and for working to quickly move this bill to the House floor.

It is important that Congress not only provide the VA with the resources to properly care for our nation's veterans, but that we also provide them with the authority to promote awareness of benefits that are available to veterans and their dependents.

Again, I thank Representative BOOZMAN for introducing this important bill. I encourage my colleagues to support it.

Mr. FILNER. I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 3681 and yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3681, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on three motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 6081, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 6074, by the yeas and nays;

H. Res. 1144, de novo.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

HEROES EARNINGS ASSISTANCE AND RELIEF TAX ACT OF 2008

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6081, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6081, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 403, nays 0, not voting 30, as follows:

[Roll No. 331]

YEAS—403

Abercrombie	Cuellar	Issa
Ackerman	Culberson	Jackson (IL)
Aderholt	Cummings	Jackson-Lee
Akin	Davis (AL)	(TX)
Alexander	Davis (CA)	Jefferson
Allen	Davis (KY)	Johnson (GA)
Altmire	Davis, David	Johnson, E. B.
Arcuri	Davis, Lincoln	Johnson, Sam
Baca	Deal (GA)	Jones (NC)
Bachmann	DeFazio	Jordan
Bachus	DeGette	Kagen
Baird	Delahunt	Kanjorski
Baldwin	DeLauro	Kaptur
Barrett (SC)	Dent	Keller
Barrow	Dicks	Kildee
Bartlett (MD)	Doggett	Kilpatrick
Barton (TX)	Donnelly	Kind
Bean	Doolittle	King (IA)
Becerra	Doyle	King (NY)
Berkley	Drake	Kirk
Berman	Dreier	Klein (FL)
Berry	Duncan	Kline (MN)
Biggert	Edwards	Knollenberg
Bilbray	Ehlers	Kucinich
Billakis	Ellison	Kuhl (NY)
Bishop (GA)	Ellsworth	LaHood
Bishop (NY)	Emanuel	Lamborn
Bishop (UT)	Emerson	Lampson
Blackburn	English (PA)	Langevin
Blunt	Eshoo	Larsen (WA)
Boehner	Etheridge	Larson (CT)
Bonner	Everett	Latham
Bono Mack	Fallin	LaTourette
Boozman	Farr	Latta
Boren	Fattah	Lee
Boswell	Feeney	Levin
Boucher	Filner	Lewis (CA)
Boustany	Flake	Lewis (GA)
Boyd (FL)	Forbes	Lewis (KY)
Boyda (KS)	Fortenberry	Linder
Brady (PA)	Fossella	Lipinski
Brady (TX)	Foster	LoBiondo
Braley (IA)	Fox	Loeb
Broun (GA)	Frank (MA)	Lofgren, Zoe
Brown (SC)	Franks (AZ)	Lowey
Brown, Corrine	Frelinghuysen	Lucas
Brown-Waite,	Galleghy	Lungren, Daniel
Ginny	Garrett (NJ)	E.
Buchanan	Gerlach	Mack
Burgess	Giffords	Mahoney (FL)
Burton (IN)	Gingrey	Maloney (NY)
Butterfield	Gohmert	Manzullo
Buyer	Gonzalez	Marchant
Calvert	Goode	Markey
Camp (MI)	Goodlatte	Marshall
Campbell (CA)	Granger	Matsui
Cannon	Graves	McCarthy (CA)
Cantor	Green, Al	McCarthy (NY)
Capito	Green, Gene	McCaul (TX)
Capps	Grijalva	McCollum (MN)
Capuano	Hall (NY)	McCotter
Cardoza	Hall (TX)	McCrery
Carnahan	Hare	McDermott
Carney	Harman	McGovern
Carson	Hastings (FL)	McHenry
Carter	Hastings (WA)	McHugh
Castle	Hayes	McIntyre
Castor	Heller	McKeon
Cazayoux	Hensarling	McNerney
Chabot	Herger	McNulty
Chandler	Herse	Meek (FL)
Clarke	Herseth Sandlin	Meeks (NY)
Clay	Higgins	Melancon
Cleaver	Hill	Mica
Clyburn	Hinchey	Michaud
Coble	Hinojosa	Miller (FL)
Cohen	Hirono	Miller (MI)
Cole (OK)	Hobson	Miller (NC)
Conaway	Hodes	Miller, Gary
Conyers	Hoekstra	Miller, George
Cooper	Holden	Mitchell
Costa	Holt	Mollohan
Costello	Honda	Moore (KS)
Courtney	Hooley	Moore (WI)
Cramer	Hoyer	Moran (KS)
Crowley	Hunter	Moran (VA)
Cubin	Inglis (SC)	Murphy (CT)
	Inslee	

Murphy, Patrick	Roskam	Sullivan
Murphy, Tim	Ross	Sutton
Murtha	Rothman	Tancredo
Musgrave	Roybal-Allard	Tanner
Myrick	Royce	Tauscher
Nadler	Ruppersberger	Taylor
Napolitano	Ryan (OH)	Terry
Neal (MA)	Ryan (WI)	Thompson (CA)
Neugebauer	Salazar	Thompson (MS)
Nunes	Sánchez, Linda	Sali
Oberstar	T.	Tiahrt
Obey	Sanchez, Loretta	Tiberi
Olver	Sanbanes	Tierney
Ortiz	Saxton	Towns
Pallone	Saxton	Tsongas
Pascarella	Scalise	Turner
Pastor	Schakowsky	Udall (NM)
Payne	Schiff	Upton
Pearce	Schmidt	Van Hollen
Pence	Schwartz	Velázquez
Perlmutter	Scott (GA)	Visclosky
Peterson (MN)	Scott (VA)	Walberg
Peterson (PA)	Sensenbrenner	Walden (OR)
Petri	Serrano	Walsh (NY)
Pickering	Sestak	Walz (MN)
Pitts	Shadegg	Wamp
Platts	Shays	Wasserman
Poe	Shea-Porter	Schultz
Pomeroy	Sherman	Waters
Porter	Shimkus	Watson
Price (GA)	Shuler	Watt
Price (NC)	Shuster	Waxman
Radanovich	Simpson	Weiner
Rahall	Sires	Welch (VT)
Ramstad	Skelton	Weldon (FL)
Rangel	Slaughter	Weller
Regula	Smith (NE)	Westmoreland
Rehberg	Smith (NJ)	Wexler
Reichert	Smith (TX)	Whitfield (KY)
Renzi	Smith (WA)	Wilson (OH)
Reyes	Snyder	Wilson (SC)
Reynolds	Solis	Wittman (VA)
Richardson	Souder	Wolf
Rodriguez	Space	Woolsey
Rogers (AL)	Speler	Wu
Rogers (KY)	Spratt	Wynn
Rogers (MI)	Stark	Yarmuth
Rohrabacher	Stearns	Young (AK)
Ros-Lehtinen	Stupak	Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—30

Andrews	Gillibrand	McMorris
Blumenauer	Gordon	Rodgers
Crenshaw	Gutierrez	Paul
Davis (IL)	Hulshof	Pryce (OH)
Davis, Tom	Israel	Putnam
Diaz-Balart, L.	Johnson (IL)	Rush
Diaz-Balart, M.	Jones (OH)	Sessions
Dingell	Kennedy	Udall (CO)
Engel	Kingston	Wilson (NM)
Ferguson	Lynch	
Gilchrest	Matheson	

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So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 15, 2008.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: I have the honor to transmit herewith a facsimile copy of a letter received from Ms. Linda Dixon Rigsby, Assistant Secretary of State for Elections, State of Mississippi, indicating that, according to the unofficial returns of the Special Election held May 13, 2008, the Honorable Travis Childers was elected Representative to Congress for the First Congressional District, State of Mississippi.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk.

Enclosure.

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI,
SECRETARY OF STATE,
Jackson, MS, May 15, 2008.

Re unofficial results—First Congressional special runoff election

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk, House of Representatives,
The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MS. MILLER: Per your request, enclosed please find a copy of unofficial results for the Special Runoff Election held on Tuesday, May 13, 2008, for Representative in Congress from the First Congressional District of Mississippi. To the best of our knowledge and belief at this time, there is no challenge or recount to this election.

As soon as the official results are certified to this office by all counties involved, an official Certificate of Election will be prepared for transmittal as required by law.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please call me at (601) 359-6340; or Phoebe Spencer, Director of Elections Administration at (601) 359-6355. Thank you.

Sincerely,
LINDA DIXON RIGSBY,
Assistant Secretary of State for Elections.

SWEARING IN OF THE HONORABLE TRAVIS CHILDERS, OF MISSISSIPPI, AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Mississippi, the Honorable TRAVIS CHILDERS, be permitted to take the oath of office today.

His certificate of election has not arrived, but there is no contest and no question has been raised with regard to his election.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Mississippi?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER. Will the Representative-elect and the members of the Mississippi delegation present themselves in the well.

Mr. CHILDERS appeared at the bar of the House and took the oath of office, as follows:

Do you solemnly swear to affirm that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter, so help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations. You are now a Member of the 110th Congress.

WELCOMING THE HONORABLE TRAVIS CHILDERS TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, as dean of the Mississippi congressional delegation, I am very, very happy to introduce to the House today the House's newest Member, TRAVIS CHILDERS.

TRAVIS went to work when he was 16 years old following the death of his father. He worked in a local convenience store to help put himself through school and take care of his family. He attended Northeast Mississippi Junior College and graduated from the University of Mississippi. He is a successful realtor, and has served as the Chancery Clerk of Prentiss County for 16 years. He is married to the former Tami Gibson, and the couple has two children, Dustin, a first-year law student at Mississippi College, and Lauren, a freshman at Ole Miss. TRAVIS has been elected four times in the span of 63 days.

He follows in the footsteps of the longest serving Member of Congress, Mr. Jamie Whitten, who used to sit right there, and, most recently, Mississippi's newest Senator, ROGER WICKER.

On behalf of the people of Mississippi, on behalf of this Congress, we welcome Mississippi's newest Representative, TRAVIS CHILDERS.

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Mr. CHILDERS. Madam Speaker, my fellow colleagues, thank you for your warm welcome today. It has seemed like a long time in 63 days.

I want to especially thank Congressman TAYLOR, Congressman THOMPSON for your great help in my campaign. Congressman PICKERING, I'm sad that you're leaving us. You all have been so, so very kind to me.

First I want to thank God today that I'm standing here. I thank my community in North Mississippi and the people of the First Congressional District of Mississippi who are some of the finest people in the world. I am humbled by the trust that they've placed in me. I am grateful for their support, and I am forever committed to working for the people of North Mississippi every single day.

I thank my wife of 27 years for standing beside me and again, being a great part of the reason that we are standing in this wonderful place today. And then our two fine children, Dustin and Lauren, for standing by me and their mother.

I want to thank my mother, who's in the gallery today, who always believed in me.

I want to thank every person who had a part of my life, and there have been so many and I wish I could introduce you to them, but that's not possible.

I wish my wonderful grandparents and my father and my sister could be here.

I want to let everyone here know that I'm ready to roll up my sleeves and get to work. The campaign is one